



The

MARKETPLACE

For Recycling Commodities

Kentucky Recycling Assistance Section

November 2015

EPA Looks Forward on Sustainable Materials Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a strategic plan outlining its areas of focus for recycling, source reduction and environmentally minded materials usage over the next seven years.

According to *Resource Recycling*, the document, which has been posted on the website of the National Recycling Coalition, covers the federal agency's aspirations for sustainable materials management for fiscal years 2017 through 2022.

The concept of sustainable materials management (SMM), described by the EPA as "a systemic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their entire life cycles," has in recent years taken a more central role in the EPA's research and reporting on national waste management issues. This year, for instance, the agency changed the name of its annual report on recycling and disposal data to "Advancing Materials Management."

The five-year strategic plan lays out four SMM objectives: decrease the overall amount of materials disposed, reduce materials' environmental impacts (such as greenhouse gas emissions) throughout the material life cycles, increase socio-economic benefits, and increase SMM program capabilities at the state and local level.

The last of those four objectives "involves increasing the per capita quantity and/or quality of recyclables recovered for manufacturing and increasing the number of households with access to organic[s] collection and recycling," the report states.

The report also identifies three focus areas in which the agency sees possibility for moving forward on the four environmental objectives noted above.

The first focus area is characterized as the "built environment" and includes construction and demolition (C&D) materials as well as disaster debris and architectural planning. The second focus area is sustainable food management, a realm in which the

agency has been particularly active of late. The third area outlined is sustainable packaging—in discussing this point, the report notes a number of anticipated outcomes by 2022, including increased per capita quantity of recyclables collected and increased quality in recyclables moving into the secondary market.

For more information on this documents, visit <http://nrcrecycles.org/newsroom/>.

Low Ocean Freight Rates Continue

As the result of a strong U.S. dollar and reduced global economic output, fewer and fewer of the export containers crossing the Pacific westbound are full. This has resulted in the continuation of very low shipping costs for North American exporters of recyclables sending loads to buyers in China and elsewhere in Asia.

The major shipping lines say westbound container ships are carrying record numbers of empty containers. For instance, more than 400,000 containers per month are loaded empty at the giant California ports in Los Angeles and Long Beach.

This amount is greater than the number of full containers placed aboard Asia-bound ships. The shipment of empty containers is up about one-fifth this year.

As a result, shipping lines are scrambling to generate revenue—generating traffic and are aggressive in attracting export orders that are currently going to their competitors. Thus, quoted rates are very attractive, say several shippers.



COMMODITY	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Nov-14
<u>PAPER-\$/TON</u>	RISI Official Board Markets (Midwest/Chicago area) FOB							
-	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Nov-14
#2 mixed paper	\$30-35	\$30-35	\$40-45	\$40-45	\$40-45	\$40-45	\$40-45	\$35-40
#37 sorted office paper (SOP)	\$130-140	\$130-140	\$130-140	\$130-140	\$125-135	\$120-130	\$115-125	\$125-135
#8 ONP	\$40-45	\$40-45	\$45-50	\$45-50	\$45-50	\$45-50	\$45-50	\$50-55
#40 sorted white ledger (SWL)	\$230-240	\$230-240	\$230-240	\$230-240	\$220-230	\$210-220	\$200-210	\$210-220
#11 OCC	\$60-65	\$60-65	\$70-75	\$75-80	\$75-80	\$75-80	\$70-75	\$65-70
<u>PLASTICS-¢/LB.</u>	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - FOB							
-	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Nov-14
#1 PET - mixed (clear & green)	\$0.12	\$0.13	\$0.13	\$0.13	\$0.12	\$0.10	\$0.08	\$0.17
#2 HDPE (natural-milk jugs)	\$0.31	\$0.33	\$0.36	\$0.37	\$0.25	\$0.26	\$0.27	\$0.45
#2 HDPE (colored-detergent btls.)	\$0.28	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.19	\$0.15	\$0.18	\$0.22	\$0.28
<u>GLASS-\$/TON</u>	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Delivered							
-	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Nov-14
clear (flint)	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$32.00
brown (amber)	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00
green	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00	\$11.00
<u>METALS</u>	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Delivered							
-	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Nov-14
aluminum beverage cans (UBC) cents/lb.	\$0.66	\$0.57	\$0.57	\$0.56	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.78
	Recycling Markets.Net/Secondary Materials Pricing - Delivered							
	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Nov-14
steel cans \$/TON	\$60-85	\$60-85	\$60-90	\$55-90	\$45-90	\$35-90	\$20-40	\$110-120



Energy and
Environment Cabinet

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